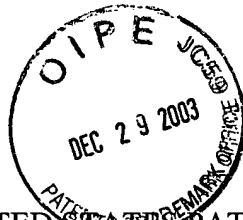


S/N 09/884,837



#11
PATENT
1/6/04

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	NATH ET AL.	Examiner:	BRIAN E. MILLER
Serial No.:	09/884,837	Group Art Unit:	2652
Filed:	JUNE 19, 2001	Docket No.:	30874.106USU1
Title:	CONTROL OF ADVANCED AIR BEARING FEATURES FOR REDUCED LUBRICANT ACCUMULATION		

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited in the United States Postal Service, as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on December 22, 2003.

By: Brian H. Batzli
Name: Brian H. Batzli

RESPONSE TO SPECIES ELECTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed November 26, 2003, requiring an election of species, Applicants hereby elect with traverse group III, Figs. 14-16. At least the following claims are readable on the elected species: Claims 1 - 9, 12 - 14, and 21 - 25.

If the Examiner has any questions in regard to the foregoing, he is respectfully requested to contact Applicants' attorney below at 612/336-4755.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903

Dated: 22 December 2003

Brian H. Batzli
Reg. No. 32,960
BBATZLI:dc

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: NATH ET AL.

Serial No.: 09/884,837

Filed: JUNE 19, 2001

Confirmation No.: 2478

Due Date: DECEMBER 26, 2003

Title: CONTROL OF ADVANCED AIR BEARING FEATURES FOR REDUCED LUBRICANT ACCUMULATION

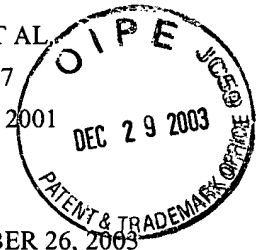
Examiner: BRIAN E. MILLER

Group Art Unit: 2652

Docket: 30874.106USU1

Notice of Allow. N/A

Date:



2652

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JAN 02 2004
Technology Center 2600

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: , Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on December 22, 2003.

By: B. H. Batzli

Name: Brian H. Batzli

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

23552

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Sir:

We are transmitting herewith the attached:

- ☒ Transmittal Sheet in duplicate containing Certificate of Mailing
- ☒ Response to Restriction Requirement
- ☒ Return postcard

Please consider this a PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME for a sufficient number of months to enter these papers or any future reply, if appropriate. Please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed.

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903, Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903
612.332.5300

By: B. H. Batzli

Name: Brian H. Batzli

Reg. No.: 32,960

BBatzli:dc